WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 MARCH 1990

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: MUSEUM MISSION TO COVER ALL OF COUNTY FROM INDIANS TO 20TH CENTURY

What kind of museum will we have? What will it be like? These are the questions being addressed by a 12-member committee that has been meeting monthly since January.

Beginning with the development of a mission statement and a review of the current collections policy, they are devoting the necessary time, thought, consideration and careful planning that will ultimately result in a master plan for our museum.

In broad brush strokes, I can share with you the basic picture of the museum that is emerging: We will focus on the history of Washtenaw County (not just the city of Ann Arbor), from the Indians to the present time.

We will not be a "house" museum, like Cobblestone Farm or the Kempf House. Though we will have exhibits and activities involving children, we will not be The Hands-on Museum.

Part of the space will be devoted to a permanent display, part will accommodate changing exhibits that will come and go, developed from our collections or borrowed from different areas of the county.

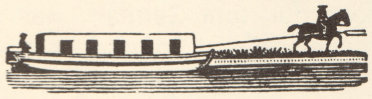
We hope to create a glimpse into the distant past, yet not to forget to preserve and portray the recent past--the history of the 20th century to the present. We would like to have a reference / reading room, should space permit.

The museum will be a place to preserve our collections, to display and to educate. We will actively seek the acquisition of historically important local artifacts.

In the words of Nancy McKinney, Chairman of the Museum Planning Committee, "We will strive to create a museum which will be educational, entertaining, and exciting to visit, as well as a place of which we can all be proud.

If you have any thoughts or ideas regarding what this museum can or should be, I hope you will call.

Karen O'Neal
665-2242



COULD YOU LOAN US TOY BANKS, OTHER $ ITEMS?

Do you have an old mechanical bank, a toy cash register or perhaps a money box in your personal collection?

WCHS seeks to develop a small, portable exhibit, drawn from our collections, focusing on money-related artifacts, to use in connection with fund-raising for the museum.

If anyone has an interesting money-related item they would like to loan to us for a period of time, we would like to hear from you. **Please call Nancy McKinney, 665-5171, or Karen O'Neal, 665-2242.**

WEBSTER ELECTS OFFICERS

Sue Gibson and Marjorie Smyth have been elected co-presidents of Webster Historical Society. Gloria Brigham is vice-president, Linda Oberto, secretary, Liz Kleinschmidt, treasurer, and Ann Graves, trustee. Mary Wheeler will fill out the final year of a two-year trustee term.

FIRST LADIES GOWNS TO BE MODELED APRIL 7

Replica first ladies inaugural ball gowns will be modeled at 2pm. Saturday, April 7, in the artist's gallery at Washtenaw Community College and Marjorie Frank's doll-size collection of gowns will be displayed.

The local Embers Chapter of American Business Women is sponsoring the show. Tickets, including dessert and beverages, are $12.00. Information: Mickey at 662-3107 days.

HOW SWEET IT IS! MAPLE SYRUP MAKING MARCH 18 TOPIC

"Maple Syrup Making--Past and Present" will be the topic of the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 18, at Dixboro Church Fellowship Hall, 5221 Church Road, Dixboro, one block north of Plymouth Road.

Professor Roger Sutherland of Schoolcraft College, whose family's spring project for many years has been making syrup from trees in their yard near Dixboro, will give a slide talk about it and about the history of syruping in the area.

WCHS Vice-president Lawrence Ziegler, a former commercial producer who sold maple syrup at Ann Arbor Farmer's Market for fifteen years under the Brinkman Sugar Bush label, will exhibit some equipment used in the process.

Refreshments will include a taste of maple syrup.

Professor Sutherland, who holds master's degrees in physical therapy and biology, is a past president of the Michigan Audubon Society. He was the author of an article, "Maple Syrup—Family Style," in *Michigan Botanist* in January 1975.

ARBORETUM DIRECTOR TO SPEAK APRIL 22

Professor Harrison L. Morton, director of the University of Michigan's Nichols Arboretum, will give a slide talk about the Arboretum at the WCHS Meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 22, at Bentley Library.

GREEN BLOOD OR ORANGE GSWC TOPIC MARCH 18

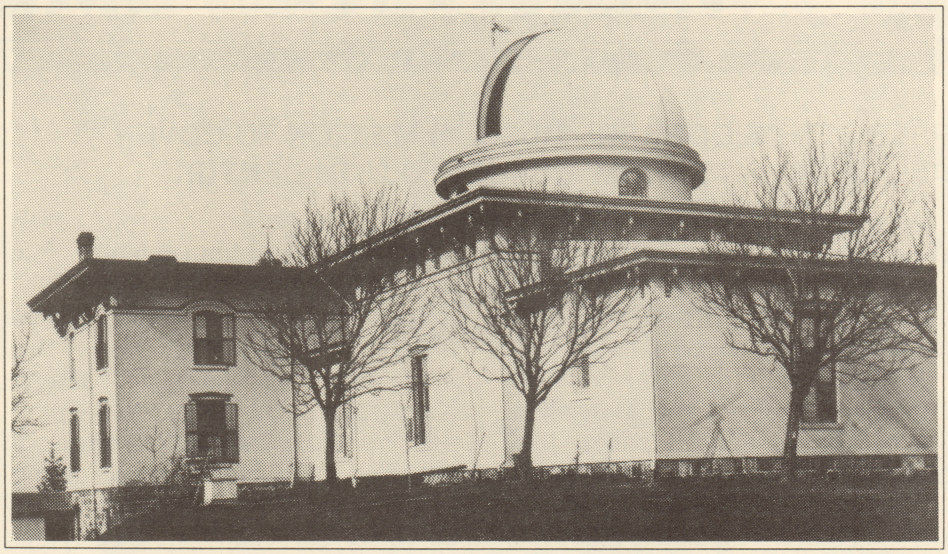
Joanne Harvey of Lansing, a certified genealogical researcher, will talk about "Green Blood or Orange" at the Genealogy Society meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at Washtenaw Community College.

TAPPAN'S 1854 OBSERVATORY
THRUST U-M TO FOREFRONT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The old U-M Observatory is one of the most important buildings in Ann Arbor and certainly the most important old building on the U-M Campus because of its identification with Henry Philip Tappan, Dr. Margaret Steneck told the February WCHS audience.

The meeting was held in the U-M's restored 1854 Detroit Observatory on the hill near University Hospitals. The speakers were Professor Nicholas and Dr. Margaret Steneck who have been engaged in its restoration since 1976.

Tappan came to the U-M in 1853 when the University of Michigan was on the verge of collapse. When the University was re-established under the state constitution in 1837, it did not provide for a chief executive, a notable lack.



Michigan Historical Collections, Bentley Library

U-M OBSERVATORY WITH ATTACHED HOUSE, 1888

"The University ground along during the 1840s but it could not grow. It remained a small student body, a small number of faculty.

"Following the constitutional convention of 1850 which provided for a president, the Board of Regents offered the Reverend Henry Philip Tappan the job as first president.

"He accepted because he felt he would be able to carry out his vision of what a university ought to be, because, in Tappan's view, there was no university worthy of that name in the United States.

"The observatory was the first building that Tappan was going to construct. It was going to be the most important physical embodiment of what he came to do.

"His idea was that he would bring the German model of a university to America.

"In December, Tappan made his inaugural address in the old First Presbyterian Church and he laid out his plans for the university that he envisioned.

"As soon as it was over, a wealthy Detroit businessman and lawyer, Henry Walker, came up to him and said, 'Mr. President, what can I do to help?' Tappan said, 'Build me an observatory.'

"That may seem strange by today's standards. Why not a physics laboratory or a chemical lab? Astronomy is not considered on the cutting edge of science today, but in the mid-nineteenth century it was still queen of the sciences, the scientific heart of a university."

Walker got the Detroit businessmen together, had Tappan come and talk to them and within a couple of weeks Tappan had the $15,000 that he needed to build the observatory.

Walker gave $4,000 for a telescope. Tappan was so anxious to get it he took Walker and went to New York to order it.

"They went to the workshop of Henry Fitz, principal telescope maker in this country at the time, and commissioned him to build a 12-inch refracting telescope. Compared to today's that's a pygmy but at the time there were only two larger in the world at Harvard and the Imperial Russian Observatory.

"Other observatories, even all those in Germany which were on the forefront of astronomical observation, were not larger than this U-M telescope, so you could see that Michigan was going into astronomy in a very big way.

"The other telescope that you needed in order to have a well-equipped observatory was a transit instrument or a meridian circle telescope for fixing the position of stars in the sky.

"An instrument of that complexity was not made in the United States at that time, so Tappan went to Germany where he talked with the head astronomer Enke at the Royal Observatory in Berlin.

"Enke advised the firm of Pistor and Martin to build the meridian circle telescope and Tappan put in an order. It is solid brass and virtually the same today as then. The only things missing are the whale oil lamps that used to light it.

"Tappan also requested an astronomical clock which you also need. It has been restored and it's in the director's office at Bentley Library.

"As important as the telescope that Tappan got from Germany was the astronomer, Franz Brunnow, who was first assistant to Enke and therefore, one of the principal astronomers in Germany.

"He persuaded Brunnow to come to the American frontier to set up this observatory and be responsible, as the first director of what we would now call the Detroit Observatory because Detroit paid a majority of the funds although Ann Arbor put in a goodly chunk also.

"So Brunnow came and saw to the installation of these telescopes. Neither one worked perfectly, ever. He was constantly making adjustments and working on them, but they served their purpose and a great deal of work was done with them.

"Tappan's idea of a model university was that these instruments would not be simply for professional faculty

research as at Harvard--they were to be used by students as well. Brunnow was always a teaching scientist as were all the others that Tappan and his successors collected here."

When Tappan came back to Ann Arbor he was absolutely furious about the site the Regents chose for the observatory--it wasn't even part of Ann Arbor.

When Brunnow came there was really nothing between the observatory and the campus but a swamp, called a "cathole," that had to be crossed to get to the observatory.

"Of course, in winter it meant trudging through snow to get up here. The building is unheated because you cannot have heat in the telescope rooms. In the depth of winter Brunnow could not work and you're a half-mile or more from central campus.

"Had he had his way, Tappan would have put it right down in the middle of the Diag--right in the middle of campus which is where the German universities placed theirs. Fortunately, he did not have his way or it would have been ripped down long ago.

"Michigan was the place to come for astronomy throughout the rest of the 19th century. Some of the most important astronomers of the later 19th century were trained here at Michigan. The most important of these was James Craig Watson."

She showed slides of the 1856 Jasper Cropsey paintings of the observatory and the central campus and the earliest photo of the former. Cropsey, later one of the Hudson River School of painters, came through Ann Arbor as an itinerant painter. The two paintings are now very valuable.

"The major 12-inch telescope is located on tope of a pillar that you see in the center of the building. The pillar goes all the way down to hard clay, not bedrock, because we don't have bedrock accessible in Ann Arbor.

"The telescope is located on a pillar to get rid of any vibration. It never did, however, because the railroad just runs too close to the observatory.

"Everything in the old observatory is hand-rotated. The astronomer's chair upstairs works by pulleys and just pushing it around. Nick will show you the mechanism that rotates the dome.

"That's one reasons why this building is so important--nobody updated it. We have gone to other 19th century observatories in this country and abroad. If they have kept their observatory intact, they have electrified the dome. You push a button and it goes around. Ours is in pristine condition.

The chronograph, just outside the meridian circle room, though not original with the two telescopes, came not long after. It was used in plotting the position of the stars.

Watson became director when Brunnow left with Tappan in 1863. "Tappan's work was not complete. It was going along nicely. He had the observatory built. He had the chemical laboratory built, which was another part of his plan."

"He has brought in marvelous faculty members such as Frieze, Andrew Dixon White, Alexander Winchell. And in 1863 Tappan was fired by the Board of Regents, the only U-M president ever to be fired.

"Tappan's observatory was the object of attack from the moment it was proposed until he left. The man who led the attack on it was the editor and owner of the *Detroit Free Press*, Wilbur Storey.

"Storey did not like Tappan's observatory and he felt it, Tappan and his German astronomer ought to be booted out of town.

"Storey was a self-made man who was a radical Democrat and he was fearless in opposing any policy he did not like in his paper.

"Storey hated anything that smacked of what he called 'codfish eastern effeminacy.' He attacked everything he didn't like about Tappan and he disliked Tappan from the moment Tappan came--his eastern accent, his manners, his intellectual orientation, but above all else he detested the president's admiration for things Prussian.

"There is some irony in Storey's criticism of Tappan's desire to bring the Prussian system of higher education to America because the Michigan education system was modeled on the Prussian system.

Both Pierce and Crary who influenced the Michigan system and Tappan in New York had been influenced by the same writing and had the same model in mind of a complete educational system, public supported, state-funded, from kindergarten all the way through university. Tappan knew that when he came.

"Storey and Tappan did not disagree on state funding for education. Storey as a man of the people believed firmly in that but he did not think that the capstone of the system ought to be an elite university."

He thought Tappan ought to be training the everyday businessmen and lawyers who would go back to their towns and be the bulwarks of their community.

"An observatory was an elite institution if you considered the advancement of knowledge an elitist activity. We have had problems throughout our history defining what the role of the University ought to be. Should it be a research institution in all fields or should it simply disseminate knowledge that is already in hand?

"Of course Tappan had in mind a modern research institution of today which is something very different than a small college.

"Other Democratic papers in the state picked up on Storey's lead."

A *Lansing Journal* reporter, after a speech by Tappan, referred to "his magnificence, the chancellor." He wrote, "Of all the imitations of English aristocracy, German mysticism, Prussian imperiousness, and Parisian nonsensity, he is altogether the most un-Americanized, the most completely foreignized specimen of an admirable Yankee we have ever seen."

"His thought, his oratory, his conversation, his social manners, his walk, even his very prayers are senseless mimicry of the follies of a rotten aristocracy over the sea," the reporter concluded.

"This is typical of the grilling Tappan received in the hostile press. Tappan was never without courage, but reading this week after week and reading of himself as a 'thorough unmitigated ass' or his faculty as 'toadying pimps and fools' was a very new experience for Tappan.

"He ably defended his University and his observatory around the state. These defenses are very important to us because Tappan explained his view of what a university ought to be and we have them because they were taken

down verbatim and printed in less hostile newspapers.

"Around 1855 the storm began to abate. Henry Walker, the benefactor of the observatory, bought the *Free Press* in order to shut Storey up. Storey went on to Chicago, bought the *Chicago Times* and proceeded to raise more controversy there during the Civil War than he had in Michigan.

"He was in favor of secession and not an opponent of slavery in the South. He fought that cause just as vociferously as he had his anti-Tappan crusade. They broke into his press and burned it down.

"Tappan was certainly an aristocrat and he never fully understood the community to which he had come. He strode across campus with his great German mastiffs, Buck and Leo, in his European style clothing. He was not a tactful person. He had great things to do. He wanted to get them done and he did not brook opposition too readily.

"There's not doubt that Tappan brought abut his own demise, but he did not deserve to be fired. It was an eleventh hour action by a Board of Regents taken in by all the Storey agitation.

"None of the Regents had been reelected and before they went out, they fired Tappan because they knew they would not have another chance. They waited until graduation was over and the students all left. Then they fired him and adjourned.

"The alumni were enraged. There were protests to the Regents, to the town. It is literally true that the alumni who were in the Union Army met the night before the Battle of Vicksburg and wrote their protests."

But the Battle of Gettysburg occurred about the same time and Ann Arbor had more serious things on its mind. "Michigan was heavily involved--the Michigan First and Fifth Infantry and, I think, the 22nd was there also. There were quite a few deaths from Ann Arbor."

The Tappan family packed up and left Ann Arbor for good. They boarded ship and went to Germany, finally settling in Switzerland. They never returned to this country.

"Tappan was invited back in 1875 to try to undo some of the damage, but, he said, he was really too old to make the trip. The Regents took out the indictment of him in the Board minutes but none of that could really be undone.

"Did his efforts die with him? Not at all. The University as you know it today is largely the result of Tappan's creation. It is the University that he set moving.

"The chemical laboratory that was his next important building to be built was the first building in the country, and perhaps in the world, to be used entirely for the study of chemistry.

"That chemical lab is going to be the heart of the development of our medical school, of pharmacology, dentistry and public health. We still have the number one public health school in the country. All of those are the direct result of that chemical lab and the emphasis that Tappan gave to this campus.

"In 1875 a house was built onto the observatory to the west. There is still a faint outline of where the door used to go into the house from the meeting room, then the director's office, later the library," she noted.

Shortly after that a student observatory was built on so that students would have more access. The student telescope is on display.

"Another reason this building is so important is because it has all of its original instruments. We have not found another 19th century observatory of which that is true.

"By 1880 there were some sheds nearby for instrument makers. Almost all of our instruments from that time on were made right here.

"During the last couple of decades of the 19th century, the observatory was riding on its reputation. The directors during that time were really not advancing astronomy.

In the early twentieth century we wanted to get a good astronomer again. William Joseph Hussey agreed to come from Stanford University but he insisted on a much better telescope and more office and classroom space.

In 1908 an addition replaced the old student observatory, extending south from the meridian circle room. It had a 37-inch telescope made here in U-M shops.

A 1920 slide showed the 1908 addition and astronomer's house. The house would later go to make room for the Couzen's Hall nurses residence addition. Old University Hospital opened in 1925 across the street.

"This was not really a viable observatory for serious research any longer. There were too many lights. Hussey acquired money for the McMath-Hulbert observatory at Lake Angelus near Pontiac.

"Hussey was a very good fund raiser. He also raised money for the Lamont-Hussey observatory in Bloemfontein, South Africa, because we needed to observe in the southern hemisphere. Now we have one in Chile.

"Hussey was on his way to the opening of the South African observatory when he stopped off at London, was taken ill and died. We had U-M astronomers stationed there until 1950.

"We were using our other observatories--Peach Mountain, Lake Angelus and then in the 1970s Kitt Peak in Arizona, now our main observatory which we built with Dartmouth and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

After that this was used only for minor research and students. Student telescopes are now over on top of Angell Hall. Faculty members were still here in the old observatory in the 1960s but the building was closed up in the later '60s and in danger of being condemned and torn down.

A slide of astronomy faculty including Professor Hazel "Doc" Losh stirred memories for some who had this popular basic astronomy teacher.

In 1976 Professors Albert Hiltner and Orren C. Mohler persuaded the University to tear down the addition which was no longer needed or used and leave the original intact.

"I really believe that Orren Mohler is the guardian angel of this building--the one who nudged, prodded and kept this building alive.

"Alice Lloyd Dormitory was built at that time and the University looked at this property. Fortunately it was too small for anyone to do anything with," she said.

"John Hathaway and others got this building on the National Register of Historic Places," Nicholas Steneck said.

"In 1976 the University was tearing down Barbour-Waterman Gym.

Someone called me and said, you are a historian of science. You must know something about observatories and suggested we start working on this project.

"We started on this building and discovered how important it was. We then discovered how important Tappan was and from that we discovered how important the University was. It's sort of like an endless hold. We now teach a course on the history of the U-M.

"We once thought we could write a book on the history of the University. We now think if we cut it off somewhere around 1840-45 we can finish the first volume. We're not sure where the second volume would go. It's just something that has captured us.

"We had to get a use for the building. In the early 1980s I had an office for something called the Collegiate Institute for Values in Science in East Engineering. That's when they were clearing out East Engineering."

He suggested they could put his office in the Observatory. Officially there was no office space in it but he showed them that a little creative imagination with the long narrow spaces would make room.

The building was a mess. To move him in the University had to paint the inside of the building.

He pointed out that the woodwork and molding looked bad and ought to be painted too. "Well, okay," they said. He looked down. What about these floors? What do you suppose is under that dingy gray paint? "I suppose we could scrape that."

"You just keep going around saying 'What about this? What about that?'

"The great thing about this building is that it is so neat and so important that, although in the abstract nobody wants to do anything for it, when you get them in the building, they get excited about it."

He showed slides of the restoration to date and then took the audience on a tour.

"We discovered some interesting late 19th century workmen's drawings on boards of woodworking that was done. I have these down cellar.

"By the early 1980s the inside of the building began to improve. The next step was to do the outside where the paint was badly scaling. The painter who had done the dome before, by himself, swore that he would never go back up on that dome again.

"One day I got a call from the astronomy department that the American Astronomy Society was going to be in town in June 1989 and would we like to do something with the observatory. I said of course we would. It's a shame the building is such a mess on the outside but let me see what I can do to get it painted.

"I used the old guilt trip. There were a lot of important astronomers coming to town and it would be an embarrassment to the University if we showed them a dingy old observatory.

"Although I helped them put on a show, the astronomy department helped me by providing me an excuse to get the building painted.

"The workmen did a super job, two of them in particular. I came here one day and they had a third person working on it. Two hours later he was gone.

"I asked, 'Where's your helper?' They said he was doing a terrible job and we fired him.

"There's a long-standing bees nest here. The exterminator and I are great friends because I call him once a year to exterminate our bee hive. Squirrels live around the base of the dome.

"The dome has a tin roof over canvas and pine boards on top of the joist structure and plaster inside. It was a real mess. They patched plaster. They had to rope themselves on to the dome. They had to hang upside down sometimes to paint.

"We debated a long time as to what color to paint the building. We talked with Richard Frank the architect from Saline. This is a brick building with typical stucco on the outside. It is our best guess that this was probably a fairly natural stucco color.

"You probably can't believe that pinkish color in the Cropsey painting because Cropsey just liked colors. It is not at all characteristic.

"There's lots more to do on the building. Peg mentioned that we want to get the wooden tube back on the telescope upstairs."

The architect who built the building is not the George Bird in the Regent's reference whom no one can locate. Margaret found in a New York newspaper it was Professor Bull of New York. They want to dig out who he was and see if they can find some plans.

"We're starting a new historical center for the health sciences here. There are 200-some-odd pieces of medical equipment, mostly from the Coller collection.

"I have about 25 pieces of equipment that came out of old Ann Arbor High School. I got a call one day that they were cleaning out their labs at Pioneer and there was some old equipment there.

"Ann Arbor High School may have taught the first physics labs in the United States. There's a whole history to be written here. I have the instruments, pictures of the instruments, lab notebooks kept in the 1880s.

"What the building needs now is a security system. As Peg mentioned, we've had two break ins. Three or four pieces were stolen. If you see a small brass transit (like a surveyor's) it's probably from here."

He led the tour into the unheated telescope rooms, first the meridian telescope room on the main floor, then upstairs to the main observing telescope.

The pillar or cone on which the main telescope sits goes fifteen feet into the subsoil to stabilize it. The building doesn't actually touch the cone at any point. The building is merely to keep the rain off the telescope, he said.

From the time the University built the third largest observatory in the world Michigan starts to lead the way in higher education. Within 12 years of this being built, the University will be the largest university in the United States.

Professor Steneck moved the telescope and dome, opened the shutter and explained how observations were made.

At first the dome moved on cannon ball ball bearings. They tended to all move to one side and there were holes for lifting and re-distributing them. Later they put in an iron rail mechanism.

It is now illegal to give stuff away at the University without it first being appraised for historical value. When the Stenecks first said a preservation policy was needed, they were told the University already had one--it was called "property disposition."

"It is my hope," Nicholas said, "that this building will be a reception center for alumni and visiting groups. If you know anybody on campus, especially up in administration, tell them what a good time you had in this building and how important it is."

ANDREW TEN BROOK:
FORGOTTEN FIGURE IN ANN ARBOR HISTORY

By Russell E. Bidlack

(Editor's Note: Part 3 of Dean Bidlack's manuscript on one of the U-M's first professors and acting presidents, continued from February issue. The story continues after Ten Brook's outspokeness gets him in hot water with President James B. Angell.)

On February 22, 1877, the eldest Ten Brook son, whom townspeople described as an "imbecile," died at age 29. He was buried beside his mother in Forest Hill Cemetery. Emma Ten Brook recalled in 1887 that from her arrival in Ann arbor in 1868, she had nursed Edward "through a lingering and fatal illness."

On June 27, 1877, the Regents voted unanimously to dismiss Ten Brook from his post as University librarian, replacing him with his assistant, Raymond C. Davis.

The official reason for their action was stated in financial terms. Whereas Ten Brook's annual salary now stood at $1,800, Davis agreed to fill the post for $1,000, providing a saving of $800. Claudius B. Grant had succeeded in rewarding his friend, and Ten Brook's enemies, included President Angell, doubtless smiled with satisfaction.

Rice Beal, editor of Ann Arbor's leading weekly newspaper, wrote on October 19, 1877:

It is...thirty-three years since he came among us, and, with the exception of a broken residence of about ten years, he has been in prominent contact with our people and the multitudes of the University community. He has also served often as supply in the Baptist pulpit, and not infrequently in others.

...He owns a considerable amount of unproductive city property, which is now affected by the general depression...With some losses, have also been coupled large expenses from domestic afflictions...It become necessary, therefore, that the Professor shall seek elsewhere the means of support which the librarianship has hitherto yielded...Like Abraham of old, he goes forth, called he knows not where.

Rice Beal's mention of Ten Brook's "unproduction city property" takes us back to June 1869 when he had launched an ill-fated business venture known as the "The Ten Brook Addition."

This involved the tract of land between Geddes and South University Streets (the latter street was then called Orleans), from Elm Street to what is now Oxford.

Engaging an engineer named DeVolsom Wood, Ten Brook had drawn up a plan dividing this property into some 50 lots. (The tract had been valued at $7,000 when his first wife had willed it to him in 1867.)

Besides the usual clearing of trees and brush and laying of board walks, Ten Brook laid out and graded two streets within is subdivision which he named Walnut and Linden. Finally, on February 3, 1873, the City Council accepted his plat.

Ten Brook had mortgaged not only the land involved, but his home as well, and had prevailed upon Emma, his second wife, to mortgage property which she had inherited in Washington, D.C., from her first husband, to meet the many expenses of such a venture.

When Mary Ten Brook was married to Alfred Eugene Mudge in Ann Arbor on September 14, 1870, it was Emma, as she recalled in 1887, not Andrew, who "expended some four hundred dollars of her own money in giving his daughter a suitable wedding."

The long post-war depression of the 1870s added to Ten Brook's financial problems. By the time of his dismissal from the University, he had not sold a single lot. He had sold a one-acre lot of his Washtenaw property, however, to Professor D'Ooge for $2,500 in 1873.

Andrew Ten Brook was 63 years old when dismissed by the Regents, and, as he had done a quarter century earlier in a similar crisis, he returned again to the state of his birth, New York.

Prior to his departure, he sold his cow as well as his horse and buggy. He also took with him the contributions received on the eve of his departure (October 24, 1877) from a "donation party" provided by his Baptist friends, a kindness then typically shown departing clergymen.

Not only was Ten Brook embarrassed by his dismissal from the University that he loved, he also could not bear to remain in Ann Arbor to face what he knew was now inevitable - the foreclosure not only of his "addition," but on his beautiful home as well.

Emma remained, however, not only to continue operating her boarding house, but to provide a home for her son and daughter and to care for her husband's remaining son, George Max Ten Brook, whose epileptic seizures were now interspersed with violent temper tantrums.

Foreclosure on the Ten Brook Addition came on November 15, 1878, when the property was sold at auction to Elmina R. Brush for $4,428.19.

The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company held the mortgage on the Ten Brook home and 11-acre lot on Washtenaw. To pay his debt, Andrew was forced to deed the property to the company for $1.00 on August 5, 1879.

His son-in-law, Eugene Mudge, now a lawyer in Brooklyn, New York, arranged for Emma to add her signature to this transaction. He was also instrumental in arranging for her to rent the house for several years in order to continue her boarding income.

Besides provided for her own two children, as Emma recalled in 1887, she also continued to nurse her husband's son, who reached his 20th birthday in July 1878, "until at last, having been attacked by said son with an axe and nearly murdered, her friends insisted upon his being sent to the Insane Asylum (at Kalamazoo)."

There the young man died on April 11, 1880. Andrew returned to Ann Arbor briefly to bury his last son in the family plot within sight of the Ten Brook Addition.

During the nine years between 1877 and 1886, which he called later "my years of exile," Ten Brook filled various Baptist pulpits in New York for short periods of time, and he lived for a while with his daughter and son-in-law in Brooklyn.

He published a number of articles, primarily about hte culture and customs of Germany, and in 1884 his translation from the German of Anton Grindely's *The Thirty Years War* was published. He rarely communicated with his wife.

Following the marriages of her two children in the early 1880s, Emma Ten Brook gave up her boarding house and became matron for the Psi Upsilon Fraternity. In July 1885, however, she said farewell to the town where she had known little domestic happiness and went to live with her son in Chicago.

In the spring of 1886, now 72 years old, Andrew Ten Brook returned to Ann Arbor to spend the remainder of his days. He rented a room and boarded, according to the city directory of that year, at 16 North State Street. His address would change a number of times during the next thirteen years.

On May 12, 1886, Ten Brook wrote to President Angell, noting:

I have two volumes of historical import nearly ready for the press, one of them which I have had in contemplation for more than 30 years, and have been working upon most of the time for 7 years past, embraces the entire range of Christendom's history.

His real purpose in writing to Angell, however, was to request that his old professorship be restored. He listed a number of courses for which he believed himself qualified to teach. Angell replied rather blunting in a letter for which he made a file copy.

Entire frankness compels me to say, since you force a statement from me, that no testimony I have ever received indicated that teaching is your calling, and until other testimony is produced, I cannot conscientiously suggest your appointment.

...I believe your vocation is writing or translating, and if I can be of any service to you in that calling, I shall be happy to aid you.

We must now relate an episode in Ten Brook's life that is both sad and ugly. On May 13, 1887, in Detroit, he sued his wife, Emma, for divorce on the grounds of desertion.

The family scandal which this caused, reported as it was in both the Detroit and Ann Arbor newspapers, can easily be imagined. It was through a chance reading of a Detroit paper that the matter came to the attention of Emma's son in Chicago.

Emma then soon responded with her own side of the story, from which some quotations have already been given. While not objecting to the end of the marriage, Emma asked for a bit of the support which she claimed she had never received from her husband - she asked for only $5.00 per week.

While Ten Brook charged his wife only in general terms of desertion and "extreme cruelty," Emma's response was much more specific. Her descriptions of Andrew's fits of temper and extreme depression ring true, and she made a convincing case, at least in the judgment of this writer, that it was she who had been deserted.

The judge took Andrew's side, however, denying any financial support for Emma, and the divorce decree became final on December 12, 1888.

For a number of years following his divorce, Andrew Ten Brook was largely shunned by the citizens of Ann Arbor and by former colleagues at the University.

While it can be assumed that he attended services at the Baptist Church, by now on Huron Street, its records contain no reference to him until an annual meeting of the congregation on April 4, 1892, at which he gave the opening prayer.

It was also at this meeting that Raymond C. Davis, the man who had taken Ten Brook's place as librarian, was elected a deacon.

Then on June 21, 1893, Ten Brook was chosen as clerk on an interim basis, and the church minutes for July, August, and September, 1893, are in his distinctive hand. Increasingly important duties were assigned to him as time passed, and eventually he was even invited to teach a Sunday School class in German.

Ten Brook never counted Raymond C. Davis among his enemies, even though he had replaced him as the University's librarian in 1877. Davis treated the old man with respect, addressing his as "Professor," and gave him free access to the book collection, now housed in a spacious building of its own. It was there that Ten Brook spent most of his time.

A touching letter written by Ten Brook on December 11, 1893, has been preserved among the Angell papers at the Bentley Library. while the letter to which it was a reply has been lost, we can guess it contents from Ten Brook's response.

Some six years ago when I called your attention to an evident error in an historical work, you yourself requested me to not such when I found them and put my initials in the note. I have done this since in a number of instances.

My supposition that I was acting on authority is my only plea for this transgression of a law which I myself suggested to the committee. I shall carefully refrain from doing the same again. I thought I was doing a service.

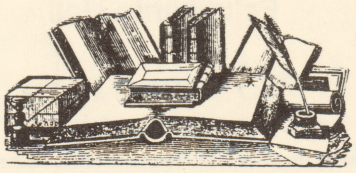
In the 1890s, following the organization of a humane society in Ann Arbor, Ten Brook took up the cause of teaching children to be kind to animals. He chaired the society's education committee and in that role addressed classes in the local schools.

He was also happy to reminisce about life in Ann Arbor in the 1840s, as well as his experiences as a young man in western New York, whenever the county or the state historical society invited him to do so.

In 1893, he welcomed the invitation of the Ann Arbor *Register* to write a history of Ann Arbor and its schools to appear in successive issues of the paper. He also wrote a history of the town's Baptist congregation. Always a lover of anecdotes, he recorded incidents which were told to him as well as those form his personal memory.

Although his last years were lived in genteel proverty, his health was good and his mind as sharp as ever. Even after passing his 80th year, he continued to hope that he might be called back to his professorship at the University.

(To be continued in April issue.)



BACH, BOTSFORD HEIR BOOSTS MUSEUM PROJECT

Doris Anna Bach of Kalamazoo who gave a large collection of furniture, china, books and papers of the Bach and Botsford families of Ann Arbor in 1975 recently gave a substantial donation toward the proposed museum.

The gift is in memory of her grandmother, Anna Botsford Bach, and her aunt, Ellen Botsford Bach. Anna's father, Elnathan Botsford settled in 1825 on the present site of Concordia College.

Anna married Philip Bach, a merchant who served on the school board. After her husband's death she succeeded him on the school board and even ran the schools for a while when there was no superintendent.

The Anna Botsford Bach Home, 1422 West Liberty, grew out of one of the organizations she founded. Her daughter, Ellen, was the first female president of WCHS, serving two terms in 1936 and '37. Doris Anna, a retired teacher, is the only child of Waldo Bach, son of Philip and Anna.

The gift arrived as a Christmas surprise for WCHS President Karen O'Neal.

HOW TO JOIN WCHS

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to: WCHS Membership, 312 South Division Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2204. Information: 996-3008.

Annual dues are $10, individual; $18 a couple. Senior individual (60) $8, senior couple $14. Sustaining dues are $50, commerical, $25, and student, $5. Only one of a couple need be 60 to qualify as seniors.

HISTORIC HAPPENINGS INVOLVE :

CRAFTS, KODAKS, POST OFFICE, 1830 HOME, MORE

Chelsea Historical Society: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at Railroad Depot, North Main at tracks.

Dexter Society: 17th annual Pioneer Craft Fair 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 17 at Dexter High School, featuring demonstrations by 55 artists. Admission, $1.50, grades 1-12, 50 cents.

Regular meetings 8 p.m. first Thursday at museum, 3443 Inverness.

Manchester Society: 7:30 p.m. third Monday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main. Jim Gibbons, Ann Arbor postmaster, will talk about the history of the postal service March 19.

Milan Society: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street.

Northfield Society: A 6:30 p.m. potluck dinner and meeting and 7:30 p.m. program on one-room schools is planned Thursday, March 29, at Wesley Methodist Church, Whitmore Lake. A panel of four former one-room school teachers will answer questions. Picture display planned.

Pittsfield Society: 2 p.m. first Sunday at Pittsfield town hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

Salem Society: 7:30 p.m. fourth Thursday, place to be announced. Election of officers in March.

The circa 1830 homestead of members Herb and Olive Conant has recently been listed on the State Registry of Historic Places. The Greek Revival style farm home was moved to Salem township from Willow Run when the airport was built.

Saline Society: 7 p.m. third Wednesday at Senior Center, 7605 North Maple Road. Larry Arnet of Arnet Monument Company, Ann Arbor, will discuss monument design, maintenance and repair and review Saline monuments March 21.

Webster Society: 7:45 p.m. second Monday in member homes.

Ypsilanti Society: Two spring exhibits at the museum, 220 North Huron, will feature baby things--bonnets, shoes, booties--and vintage Kodak cameras in honor of the 100th birthday of the camera that made almost everybody into a snapshooter.

The society will be represented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums in Chicago in May. Carroll Osborne, a retired EMU professor and YHS board member, and his wife will attend.

Museum hours 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Archives open 9 a.m.-noon weekdays.

WHAT IS IT? GAME OFFERED SCHOOLS, GROUPS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous "What is it?" game to schools for children and another for adults.

They are available for classes and meetings subject to volunteer availability. For information call Arlene Schmid 665-8773.

In recent months the exhibits have been to King and Northside Schools in Ann Arbor, Milan Historical Society and Burns Park Senior Citizens.

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WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2:00 p.m. Sunday
March 18, 1990

Dixboro Church
Fellowship Hall

5221 Church Road
Dixboro, Michigan

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Ypsilanti Museum
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Ypsilanti MI 48197